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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Boors *and the Elector of* Bavaria. *Of the* French *Ships taken by an* Engliſh *Squadron. The Renunciation of a* Roman Catholick, *and his Converſion the Church of* England. *Of the Danger of Maſquerade* Papiſts. *Of the Duty of* Engliſhmen *to ſtand by and Support Her Majeſty and Government.*

From Saturday Auguſt the 7th, to Wednesday Auguſt the 11th, 1703.

Obſ. YOu are Welcome from *London*. Honeſt *Country-man*. What News haſt brought us?

Country m. Very good News, Sir, the *Tyrol* Boors have mauld the Traytor of *Bavaria* moſt confoundedly; and ſome People who know that Country tell me, they have got him in a Pound; I hope they'l manage him as they did one of his Generals 'tother day: I proteſt, Maſter *Obſervator*, theſe Fellows that fight without Pay do the moſt miſchief to the Common Enemy: The *Tyrol* Boors, and the *Cevennois*, have afforded us many Fighting-Stories this Campaign; and I have got a ſort of Fighting and Burning Story from Sea: A Squadron of our Men of War, have taken and Sunk three *French* Frigats, and have brought home 13 Ships laden with Wine and Brandy, and have Burnt and Deſtroy'd I can't tell how many more: Is not this very good News?

Obſ. Yes, yes, but we muſt not talk of the Actions of Great Men, they ſay 'tis a thing out of our Sphere. But I'll aſſure you Captain *Lempriere* and Captain *Pipon*, are a Couple of very honeſt Gentlemen, and the next time I ſee them I will give 'em my hearty thanks. What News elſe haſt got?

Country-m. I don't know what's the matter with you, but of late you Cut your Reflections on the Publick News very ſhort; there's ſomething more in the Wind than I can diſcern. But, Sir, I'll tell you, one good piece of ſervice you have done by your writing, you have Converted a *Papiſt* to the *Proteſtant Faith*. I mean the Perſon which keeps the *Laſt* in *Black-Fryars*, and who had a Club of *Papiſts* in his Houſe, for whom *Robert Stevens* Sollicited, and carried their Club Orders to the Secretary of State: This Man has *Renounced* the *Roman Religion*; and I have brought you a Copy of his Renunciation, which he deſires you would make publick. Here it is, I'll read it to you if you pleaſe.

I Stephen Rous *of the Pariſh of St.* Anns Black-Fryars, *in the City of* London, *Victualler, do acknowledge my ſelf to have been in the Communion of the Church of* Rome, *and to have entertained a Club of* Roman Catholicks *in my Houſe: But by the eſpecial Providence and Grace of God, my mind is now ſo Enlightned, as to ſee my* Errors: *And by theſe Preſents I do* Renounce *all the* Errors *and* Superſtitions *of the Church of* Rome: *And alſo do hereby deny the* Authority *of the* Pope *in all Cauſes* Eccleſiaſtical *and* Civil, *and do abſolutely diſown his* Authority *in the Kingdom of* England. *And I do hereby acknowledge Her Majeſty Queen* ANN *to be* Rightful *and* Lawful *Queen of theſe Realms, in Oppoſition to the pretended Power of the* Pope, *and all* Pretenders *whatſoever. And by theſe Preſents I do fully Embrace the Doctrines of the Church of* England, *as containing in them all neceſſary Means to Salvation. And as God has ſo far Enlightned my Mind as to convince me of the Errors and Superſtitions of the Church of* Rome, *ſo do I hope, by his ſpecial Grace and Favour, to be farther Enlightned and Informed in the* Proteſtant Faith. *And in Confirmation of this my Renunciation, and of my ſincere Intention to continue in the* Proteſtant Faith, *I have hereunto (of my Free Will, and according to my own Deſire) ſet my Hand this 7th day of* Auguſt, 1703,

Stephen Rous.

Signed in the Preſence of Mr. *Daniel Chapell*, Conſtable of the ſaid Pariſh, and in Preſence of ſeveral others.

Now, Sir, it ſeems this Man, after he had made ſome Remarks on the *Popiſh Club* kept in his Houſe, began to Reflect on his Carriage to a Government which was *No ways ſevere* to the *Worſt of its Enemies*; and alſo thinking it but Reaſonable to Comply with a Government under whoſe Protection all Honeſt Men are ſafe, he thought himſelf in Duty bound to yield a thorough Allegiance, and to pay due Homage to the *Queen*, and the *Laws* of a Country in which he got his Livelihood: And farther conſidering the *Blindneſs* and *Ignorance* of the *Proſelites* of the Church of *Rome*, how they are kept from the uſe of their Reaſon, and are taught to Believe as *Parrots* are taught to Speak; He hereupon went to hear ſome of the *Proteſtant* Miniſters, and by the Soundneſs of their Doctrine, he became more and more Convinced of the Reaſonableneſs of their Tenents and Diſcipline; and hereupon made his Renuntiation on *Saturday* laſt, in the ſame Form as I have brought you. God bleſs you, Maſter *Obſervator*, I pray God make you an Inſtrument of Converting the *Jews* and *Papiſts* to the Knowledge of *Jeſus Chriſt*, and the *Proteſtant Religion*.

Obſ. If God ſhould ſo far Bleſs my Endeavours, I ſhould not think much to be Endicted every Seſſions for making an Attempt of this Nature. Thls is in a great Meaſure owing to the care of the Officers of *Black-Fryars* Pariſh, who, upon our Publick complaint of this *Popiſh Jacobite* Club, look'd more narrowly into an Affair of ſo great Importance to the Government, and the *Proteſtant Religion*. This alſo may encourage other Officers to be Diligent and Careful in their ſeveral Diſtricts, Wards and Liberties. Methinks no good *Proteſtant*, who

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is an Officer, should overlook these Factions *Cabals* and *Clubs*, but especially on the *Lords Day*; For I am Credibly informed, every *Sabbath-Day* Morning, a *Company* of these People to the Number of 24 or 25 meet at the *Feathers* in *Princes-Street* in *Covent-Garden*, and as many every *Lords-Day* Evening at the *Faulcon* in *Kings-Street* in St. *Giles*'s. And who can tell if these *Clubs* were Routed, but many of the *Papists* (*When the Opportunities of Faction and Treason were taken away*) might come over to our *Church*; and instead of being, as now they are, a Goad in our side, might in time become good *Protestants*, and be a Support to our *Queen* and *Government*?

Whatever *Robin Stevens*, and his Party, may think of such Meetings, such as have a sincere Desire for the Welfare of their Country, and do not look thro' the Perspective of Profit for a Golden Shower from St. *Germains*, I say, such Men as are not Byast by *Inclination* or *Profit* to *Popery* and *Papists*, must needs say these *Clubs* are of Dangerous Consequence to the *State*, and to our Holy Religion. For in their Club Orders one Article is, *That none but Papists shall be of that Society, and that no Protestant, on any pretence whatsoever shall be admitted into the Club-Room.* With due Respect and Submission to the better Judgment of the Ministry, I think our Queen cannot be safe, nor the Peoples Liberties secure, while we have Societies of Men among us who are known Enemies to our *Constitution*, and who do Levy Money for unknown *Ends* and *Purposes*, contrary to the Laws of the Land; When Mr. *Rous* dismist this *Company* from his House, they had then in the Box in his Hands 32 *l.* besides some Money they had at *Interest*. Now, Sir, God knows how many of these Clubs are in *London* and other parts of *England*, and what the aggregate Sum would be, if the Petty Funds were brought into one Bank, nor what Mischief they may do with the Money they have already Collected. I am informed by a Person, who, not long since was in Orders of the Church of *Rome*, that we have now 5000 *Popish* Emissaries in *England*. I can't, you see, forbear mentioning these things, tho *Robin Stevens* Threatens hard to Indict me for it the next Sessions.

We can never have too watchful an Eye over the *Papists*, and their *Encouragers* and *Abettors*, who are indeed *Worse* than the *Romans*. A *Protestant* in *Masquerade* is a more dangerous Enemy by far, than he that openly professes what indeed he is; and therefore a great Author, when he distinguishes betwixt *Popish* and *Protestant Slavery*, tells us, *That the former is less dangerous, because it cries* Ware Horns; *when as the other creeps upon us without Notice.* In the unhappy Reign of K *James* II. *Popery* had never set a foot in *England*, but by the assistance of the *High-Flyers*; for the *Papists* were never able to have brought such a thing to pass without the help of *pretended Protestants*, who while they kept within View of the *Moderate Church-Man*, we knew where to find them; but when they Soar'd with the *Papists* above the Pinnacle of the Steeple, we can't tell what Comunication they had with one another in the Clouds.

'Tis true we are infinitely beholden to that Excellent Prince King *William* in filling the vacant Bishopricks in His Time with Men of the *greatest Learning, Piety* and *Moderation*: Most they all of 'em have long Lives, and continue many years an Ornament to our Church, and Blessing to our Nation: Yet are we secure when *Papists* and *Non-jurors* shall daily affront the Government in Words and Writing, and this with Impunity? The Book call'd the *Exorbitant Grants of King* William, was Written by a *Papist*, and in it are contain'd the highest Affronts to Her Majesty and Government, amounting even to *High-Treason.* This Person has not been Prosecuted by *Bill* or *Indictment*, and yet you see a Bill was brought against me last *Sessions* for Writing against the *Papists*, in Defence of Her Majesties Government. I must make no Applications but at the hazard of my Liberty.

Now Honest *Country-man*, all the Inference I shall make from this Discourse is to our selves; if we have Numbers of Foreign *Papists* come over to *Confederate* with those at Home, and the the *Non-jurors*, and if we have such as *Stevens* in the Kingdom to Abet and Encourage these People, then it is much more a Duty Encumbent on us, who are *Protestants* and *Friends* to Her Majesty and Government, to entertain within our selves a firm Resolution to *Maintain* and *Support* Her Majesty in her *Just Rights*, and the People in the full *Possession* of their *Free Liberties* and *Birth Rights.* To this End let us remember, that the Vows of God are upon us, we were sworn upon the *Evangelists* to support and maintain King *William* and his *Protestant* Successors: Every Man in *England*, but the *Non-jurors*, did this, and signed the *Association* after the Discovery of the Plot to take away the life of the best of Princes: These Oaths are still binding upon us, for tho' that excellent Prince whose safety was the Occasion of that Association, is now numbred amongst the Saints in the Heavenly Mansions; yet he survives on the Throne in the Person of our Excellent Princess Queen *Ann*, who has the *same Right*, and came to the Throne by the *same Act of Settlement* as did the Glorious *William*: So that if Her Majesty, by the hands of *Papists* and *Non-jurors*, should come to an untimely End (which God forbid) we are *conjurati fratres*, *Brethren Sworn together* to Revenge her Death.

Remember also what I told you a little while ago, that all Oaths were at first instituted *ad Honorem Coronæ, & ad Utilitatem Regni. For the Honour of the Crown, and the Profit of the Kingdom.* Or, according to the Addition of *William* the 1st *ad Utilitatem Anglorum, for the profit and Advantage of Englishmen.* So that in making good your Oaths to your *Queen*, you do Confirm and Ratify to your selves and Posterity your Native Rights and Properties, which I bless God are now so intermixt with the Prerogatives of the Crown, that both must be supported by Revolution Principles.

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